	Army	Navy	Air Force
Authorised strength	46615	8797	12128
Positioned strength	35377	7336	10563
Shortage	11238	1461	1565

Several steps have been undertaken by the three Services to fill up the vacant posts. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. Time scale promotion to the rank of Colonel and equivalent after 26 years of service has also been introduced. Government has also issued orders extending the tenure of SSC officers from 10 years to 14 years.

Besides, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.

The Government has also appointed 6th Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of all the Government servants including the Armed Forces. The three Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commission by the three Services Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.

Pending cases against army officials

†1093. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in courts against the officers and other ranks in the Army in various parts of the country;

(b) the number of such cases which come under the category of serious offences and action taken by the Army thereon; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to amend the law or start any other scheme for early disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There are 41 court martial cases pending against army personnel which require a disposal by a forum higher than summary court martial.

However, the number of cases pending against army personnel in various courts is 25 only which includes 6 cases filed before special court of CBI.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Out of 41 court martial cases, 35 cases are related to serious offences such as property, murder, rape and other offences of physical assault. Trial proceedings by courts martial or civil courts in such matters is an ongoing process.

(c) No amendment is contemplated as the existing law/rules are considered adequate. However, to provide a meaningful opportunity of appeal against verdicts of court martial to the officers and other ranks in courts in various parts of the country, the Government has decided to set up an Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) which would also be empowered to deal with service matters. Once the AFT and its regional benches are fully functional, it is expected to reduce the burden of the courts significantly.

Decrease in insurgency activities in Kashmir

1094. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable decrease in insurgency/extremist activities in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any demand for reduction of troop strength in Kashmir, and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Addition of multipurpose fighter aircrafts by Pakistan

†1095. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAI VORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is adding JF-17 multipurpose fighter aircraft in its Air Force fleet with the help of China and it shall get the above 8 aircrafts in the year, 2007 and 15 fighter aircrafts in the next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan will make 400 JF-17 fighter aircrafts with the help of China;

(c) whether it is a fact that America also has agreed to the supply of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, what immediate step Government is taking for the security of the country in view of the crisis posed by Pakistan, China and Bangladesh?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.